

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 13810 220714Z

20

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01 SCA-01 IO-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AGR-05 SWF-01

OMB-01 IGA-01 /080 W

----- 069751

R 220610Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8577

INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 13810

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

DEPARTMENT PASS AID ALSO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: REFUGEE FATALITIES IN MINDANAO

BEGIN SUMMARY: PHILIPPINE RED CROSS OFFICIALS IN MANILA
CONFIRM ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT THAT 44 MUSLIM REFUGEES
HAVE DIED AS RESULT OF DISEASE AND MALNUTRITION IN AREAS
OF CENTRAL MINDANAO WHERE FIGHTING HEAVY IN RECENT MONTHS.
THEY SAY POOR CONDITION OF REFUGEES PARTLY DUE TO SLUGGISH
ACTION BY SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IN FACING PROBLEM OF
GREAT SEVERITY. THEY EMPHASIZE THAT CONDITIONS AS BAD OR
WORSE AMONG CHRISTIAN REFUGEES WHO ARE APPROXIMATELY FOUR
TIMES AS NUMEROUS IN AREA AS MUSLIMS. END SUMMARY

2. ACCORDING ASSOCIATED PRESS STORY OF NOVEMBER 19 (WHICH
CITES "RED CROSS SOURCES") AT LEAST 44 PERSONS HAVE DIED
OF DISEASE AND MALNUTRITION IN THREE CAMPS FOR 3,244
MUSLIM REFUGEES, MOSTLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN, DISPLACED
BY GOVERNMENT SWEEPS IN MINDANAO IN PAST MONTHS. AREAS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 13810 220714Z

MENTIONED IN STORY (BALIAGNO, LIBUA AND KULONG-KULONG)

ARE ON SOUTH COAST OF SULTAN KUDARAT PROVINCE (MILBUK-PALIMBANG AREA). ACCORDING STORY, REPORTED DEATHS DID NOT INCLUDE THOSE FROM "NATURAL CAUSES." IT STATES THAT ABOUT HALF THE REFUGEES ILL AND WELFARE WORKERS SHORT OF ANTI-BIOTICS AND MEDICINES. STORY MENTIONS THAT REFUGEES AT TAGADTAL (850 PERSONS) FLED KULONG-KULONG AFTER ARMY DRPBE AGAINST REBELS SUSPECTED OF AMBUSHING WORKERS ON NEARBY WEYERHAEUSER CONCESSION.

3. MANILA PHILIPPINE RED CROSS SOURCES TOLD USAID OFFICIAL NOVEMBER 21 THAT STORY SUBSTANTIALLY ACCURATE AND SIAD THAT RED CROSS HAD RECEIVED REPORTS OF FORTY-FIVE (SIC) DEATHS FROM THEIR LOCAL RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVES IN FIELD MORE THAN TWO WEEKS AGO. SOURCES BLAME PROBLEM ON 1) GREAT RESEVERITY OF PROBLEM, WITH ADDITIONAL REFUGEES BEING GENERATED IN NEW AND UMPREDICTABLE LOCATIONS BY EVERY MILITARY CLASH AND 2) SLUGGISH ACTION ON THE PART OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WHICH SEEMS INCAPABLE OF MOVING WHAT SUPPLIES ARE AVAILABLE TO AREAS WHERE NEEDED. FOR EXAMPLE USAID AWARE THAT ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (UN) MADE AVAILABLE 900 TONS OF FOOD FOR REFUGEES, BUT IT NEVER LEFT MANILA UNTIL CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE FINALLY TOOK OVER DISTRIBUTION.

4. PHILIPPINE RED CROSS OFFICIAL SAID THAT BULK OF WHATEVER IS GEING DONE FOR REFUGEES IS BEING DONE BY LOCAL MILITARY, AND THAT THIS NOT INCONSIDERABLE (ALTHOUGH CLEARLT NOT ADEQUATE TO MEET PROBLEM). RED CROSS IS ALSO HELPING BUT ITS RESOURCES EXTREMELY LIMITED. OFFICIAL EMPHASIZED THAT ALTHOUGH WHAT RELIEF AVAILABLE IS CHANNELLED PRIMARILY TO MUSLIMS, SITUATION AMONG CHRISTIAN REFUGEES WHO ARE APPROXIMATELY FOUR TIMES AS NUMEROUS IS JUST AS BAD. (ACCORDING INFORMATION FURNISHED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO STAFFDEL MOOSE/MEISSNER WHEN THEY RECENTLY VISITED COTABATO, A TOTAL OF 357,041 REFUGEES HAVE BEEN GENERATED UP TO OCTOBER 31, 1974 IN NORTH COTABATO, MAGUINDANAO, SULTAN KUDARAT AND SOUTH COTABATO PROVINCES; OF THESE 70,373 RESETTLED AND 69,365 RETURNED TO DATE. OF TOTAL, 293,273 ARE CHRISTIAN AND 63,768 ARE MUSLIMS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANILA 13810 220714Z

5. IN YEARS PAST MINDANOA-SULU RELIEF EFFORTS INCLUDED CONSIDERABLE INPUT US VOLUNTARY AGENCIES FOOD-FOR PEACE COMMODITIES AND MEDICINES, AND THERE ARE STILL LIMITED, ONGOING NUTRIBUN PROGRAMS FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN IN JOLO, BASILAN, ZAMBOANGA, COTABATO CITY AND PAGADIANM IN ADDITION, GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA HAS MADE AVAILABLE SEVERAL THOUSAND TONS OF FLOUR EACH YEAR TO AUGMENT GOP RELIEF SUPPLIES. HOWEVER PROGNOSIS FOR CONTINUING AID

SEEMS BLEAKER AS WORLD FOOD SITUATION TIGHTENS. AS
RESULT, RELIEF EFFORTS WHICH NEVER ADEQUATE FOR PROBLEM,

ARE LIKELY TO WEAKEN FURTHER. EFFMRTS OF ISLAMIC RELIEF
AGENCY WHICH SUPPOSEDLY BEING FUNDED BY ARAB COUNTRIES
TO TUNE OF UWP MILLION AT BEHEST OF KUALA LUMPUR CON-
FERENCE MIGHT HELP SOMEWHAT, IF RPT IF IT EVER GETS OFF
THE GROUND.

6. COMMENT: ALL EXTERNAL AID CONTRIBUTIONS TO REFUGEE
PROBLEM ARE INSIGNIFICANT IN COMPARISON TO NEED.
MINDANOA-SULU FIGHTING OVER PAST 2-3 YEARS HAS GENERATED
TOTAL OF OVER A MILLION REFUGEES. WHILE MANY HAVE BEEN

ABLE TO RETURN TO HOME AREAS, THERE ARE STILL PERHAPS
HALF A MILLION WHO ARE LIVING IN PRIVATION INCLUDING
SOME CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE RETURNED TO ORIGINAL NATIVE
AREAS OUTSIDE MINDANOA WHERE MANY ARE NOW IN SQUATTER
SLUMS. NO MORE THAN 30-40,000 ARE DEPENDENT ON GOVERN-
MENT OR OTHER OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE AT ANY ONE TIME, IF ONLY BECAUSE
RHUTSIDE RESOURCES ARE NOT ADEQUATE TO SUPPORT MORE.

7. WHILE PHILIPPINE RED CROSS CONTINUES TO HELP, ITS
EFFORTS ARE NECESSARILY KEYED TO MOST SERIOUS CRISIS
SITUATIONS. WITH REGARD TO MORE COMPREHENSIVE LONG-
RANGE EFFORTS TO SOLVE REFUGEE PROBLEM, GOP HAS DONE
SOME EXCELLENT PLANNING. IMPLEMENTATION HAS BEEN VERY
LIMITED MAINLY FOR LACK OF BOTH MATERIAL AND ADMINISTRA-
TIVE RESOURCES. GOP MAY ALSO BE HELD BACK BY FEELING
THAT PUTTING REFUGEES ON WHAT COULD EASILY BECOME PER-
MANENT DOLE WOULD ALSO BE UNDESIRABLE. IN SHORT, WHILE
AP REPORT OF REFUGEE FATALITIES WILL HOPEFULLY STIMULATE
SOME INCREASED ATTENTION TO MOST CRITICAL AREAS, IT WILL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MANILA 13810 220714Z

NOT WE FEAR CAUSE GOP TO COME TO GRIPS WITH ONE OF
THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEMS GENERATED BY MINDANAO STRIFE.
SULLIVAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, MOSLEMS, DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MANILA13810
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740338-0596
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741120/aaaaaqwu.tel
Line Count: 157
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: GEES HAVE BEEN GENERATED UP TO OCTOB, ER 31, 1974 IN
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Aug-2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REFUGEE FATALITIES IN MINDANAO BEGIN SUMMARY: PHILIPPINE RED CROSS OFFICIALS IN MANILA
TAGS: PINT, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005